



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

H.D

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/772,111	02/03/2004	Kenny C. Gross	SUN-P8963-SPL	4852

57960 7590 01/08/2007
SUN MICROSYSTEMS INC.
C/O PARK, VAUGHAN & FLEMING LLP
2820 FIFTH STREET
DAVIS, CA 95618-7759

EXAMINER

BUI, BRYAN

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2863

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	01/08/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/772,111	Applicant(s) GROSS ET AL.	
	Examiner Bryan Bui	Art Unit 2863	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>2/3/04; 4/5/06</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

1. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

The claims are directed to a judicial exception; as such, pursuant to the Interim Guidelines on Patent Eligible Subject Matter (MPEP 2106), the claims must have either physical transformation and/or a useful, concrete and tangible result. The claims fail to include transformation from one physical state to another. Although, the claims appear useful and concrete, there does not appear to be tangible result claimed. Merely recite determining whether a sensor has failed in the computer system..., using an estimated signal for the failed sensor in place of the actual signal from the failed sensor during subsequent operation of the computer system,..." would not appear to be sufficient to constitute a tangible result, since the method does not provide the final result used in a disclosed practical application and made available in such a manner that its usefulness in a disclosed practical application can be realized. As such, the subject matter of the claims is not patent eligible. **The final result of function performed, such as the step of presenting/outputting/displaying of the result for use in the practical application should be provided.**

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 1-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 1, line 7, recites limitation "the actual signal", lack antecedent basis.

In claim 11, line 9, recites limitation "the actual signal", lack antecedent basis.

In claim 21, line 9, recites limitation "the actual signal", lack antecedent basis.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1-8, 10-18, 20-28, and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Gross et al (US 5764509).

With respect to claims 1, 11 and 21, Gross et al teach a method/ a computer-readable storage medium/apparatus (figures 1, 5) for replacing a signal from failed sensor with an estimated signal derived from correlations with other instrument signals in the computer system comprising determining whether a sensor has failed (column 4, lines 46-49, column 7, lines 30-40), and if the sensor has failed, using an estimated

Art Unit: 2863

signal (virtual signal) for the failed sensor in place of the actual signal from the failed sensor during subsequent operation of the computer system, whereby the computer system can continue operating without the failed sensor (column 7, lines 26-62); wherein the estimated signal (virtual signal) is derived from correlations with other instrument signals in the computer system (column 7, lines 28-39).

With respect to claims 2-4, 12-14, and 22-24, Gross et al in figures 1, 5 and column 7, lines 26-62, teach wherein determining whether the sensor has failed involves deriving an estimated signal for the sensor from correlations with other instrumentation signals in the computer system and comparing a signal from the sensor with estimated signal to determine whether the sensor has failed; wherein comparing the signal from the sensor with the estimated signal involves using sequential detection methods to detect changes in the relationship between the signal from the failed sensor and estimated signal; wherein the sequential detection methods include the Sequential Probability Ratio Test (SPRT).

With respect to claims 5-7, 15-17, and 25-27, Gross et al, in SMSET MODULE, column 37-38 (appendix c); column 1, line 62+, and column 6, line 30 to column 8, line 5, teach prior to determining whether the sensor has failed, further comprising determining correlations between instrumentation signals, whereby the correlations can subsequently be used to generate estimated signals; the correlations involves using a non-linear, non-parametric regression technique to determine the correlations; wherein the non-linear, non-parametric regression technique includes a multivariate state estimation technique.

Art Unit: 2863

With respect to claim 10, 20 and 30, Gross et al teach the sensor can be totally failed or a sensor with degraded performance (column 7, lines 33+).

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 9, 19 and 29 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bryan Bui whose telephone number is 571-272-2271. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th from 7am-4pm, and Alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John E. Barlow can be reached on 571-272-2269. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2863

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

BB

12/28/2006

BRYAN BUI
PRIMARY EXAMINER

